

CHICKENS and EGGS

Chickens have been around for a long time. Many sources believe they were the first species of bird to be domesticated. The first domesticated chickens are believed to have originated from four wild fowl varieties found in the Indus Valley and the Indian subcontinent. Chickens were prized for eating, fighting, and breeding in the ancient world. They were first brought to the New World by Christopher Columbus. Various Indians eagerly accepted the chickens and evolved them for conditions in their areas. During the 1800's, chicken breeding boomed. Many of the resulting breeds are popular even today. Food production made huge leaps during WWI and by the end of WWII, producing chicken became a highly valued industry.

The number of all chickens in Washington decreased 4 percent from 2002 to 6.2 million chickens. The number of layers (1 year

and older) increased 12 percent from 2002 to 3.8 million. Pullets 13 weeks to 20 weeks old and laying hens made up 89 percent of the all chicken numbers. The number of chickens sold in 2003 increased from 2.27million head to 2.29 million head. The price per pound for chickens remained the same as in 2002, 0.1 cent per pound. The value of chickens sold rose from \$7,000 to \$8,000.

Total egg production decreased 5 percent from 2002. The value of 2003 egg production in Washington totaled \$70.4 million, compared with \$55.4 million the previous year. For more information about poultry, look under the Washington Fryer Commission's Internet Home page at: www.cluckcluck.org, or visit the NASS website at: www.nass.usda.gov

Poultry: Number on Farms, Washington, December 1, 1994-2003

Year	All Chickens 1/	Of Laying Age			Not of Laying Age		Other Chickens	Value	
		Layers (1 Year and Older)	Layers (20 weeks old but less than a year)	Total Layers	Pullets (3 Mos. and Older)	Pullets (Under 3 Mos. Old)		Per Head	Total
		1,000 Head						1,000 Dollars	
1994	7,236	2,480	2,808	5,288	1,197	730	21	2.20	15,919
1995	7,008	2,440	2,790	5,230	873	883	22	2.00	14,016
1996	6,937	2,914	2,172	5,086	703	1,126	22	1.80	12,487
1997	6,867	2,815	2,156	4,971	1,090	805	1	1.90	13,047
1998	6,969	2,513	2,538	5,051	940	977	1	2.00	13,938
1999	6,233	2,092	2,563	4,655	914	663	1	1.70	10,596
2000	6,721	3,508	1,375	4,883	841	993	4	1.90	12,770
2001	6,372	3,120	1,848	4,968	620	782	2	2.30	14,656
2002	6,484	3,406	1,756	5,162	179	1,141	2	2.40	15,562
2003	6,230	3,803	1,103	4,906	631	692	1	2.50	15,575

1/ Excludes commercial broilers.

Chickens and Eggs: Production & Income, Washington, 1994-2003 1/

Year	Chickens					Eggs		
	Number Lost 2/	Number Sold For Slaughter	Pounds Sold	Price Per Pound	Value of Sales	Eggs Produced	Price Per Dozen 3/	Value of Production
	1,000	1,000	1,000	Cents	1,000 Dollars	Millions	Cents	1,000 Dollars
1994	620	3,800	13,680	2.0	274	1,371	73.0	83,403
1995	1,090	3,500	12,950	2.0	259	1,455	76.9	93,241
1996	1,170	3,200	11,200	2.0	224	1,412	76.4	89,897
1997	1,000	3,000	10,200	2.0	204	1,379	65.3	75,024
1998	648	3,209	10,911	2.0	218	1,393	59.4	68,979
1999	643	3,094	10,520	1.0	105	1,307	54.2	59,041
2000	671	2,683	9,122	1.0	91	1,306	55.1	59,985
2001	716	2,723	9,531	0.1	10	1,339	56.1	62,544
2002	569	2,272	7,498	0.1	7	1,369	48.6	55,460
2003	696	2,285	8,226	0.1	8	1,307	64.6	70,360

1/ Estimates cover the 12 month period December 1, previous year through November 30, and excludes broilers. 2/ Includes rendered, died, destroyed, composted or disappeared for any reason for the 12-month period. 3/ Average of all eggs, including hatching eggs.

Average Number of Layers, Eggs Per Layer, & Egg Production, By Month, Washington, 1994-2003 1/

Year	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	State Total 2/
Average Number of All Layers (1,000)													
1994	4,898	4,918	4,834	4,763	4,836	4,866	4,913	4,904	5,126	5,413	5,362	5,316	-
1995	5,253	5,239	5,411	5,531	5,560	5,631	5,562	5,384	5,239	5,238	5,230	5,203	-
1996	5,236	5,186	5,118	5,152	5,164	5,173	5,242	5,273	5,122	5,045	5,122	5,012	-
1997	5,080	4,983	4,890	4,939	5,008	5,094	5,152	5,082	5,103	5,176	5,095	4,997	-
1998	4,971	4,977	4,995	5,072	5,123	5,044	4,979	5,004	5,049	5,062	4,995	4,993	-
1999	5,013	4,940	4,925	4,815	4,739	4,753	4,687	4,726	4,736	4,755	4,811	4,724	4,802
2000	4,736	4,745	4,732	4,784	4,826	4,946	4,954	4,912	4,810	4,776	4,899	4,909	4,836
2001	4,969	4,996	4,942	5,054	5,028	4,956	4,915	4,842	4,983	4,996	5,066	5,101	4,987
2002	5,077	5,196	5,118	5,078	5,159	5,191	5,269	5,236	5,195	5,187	5,129	5,157	5,166
2003	5,084	4,964	4,959	4,954	4,952	4,915	4,860	4,842	4,835	4,874	4,872	4,886	4,916
Eggs Laid Per 100 Layers (Numbers)													
1994	2,287	2,338	2,151	2,372	2,213	2,281	2,259	2,325	2,302	2,235	2,313	2,276	-
1995	2,380	2,367	2,070	2,242	2,176	2,255	2,211	2,303	2,310	2,253	2,294	2,229	-
1996	2,273	2,275	2,149	2,368	2,246	2,300	2,270	2,352	2,362	2,240	2,284	2,234	-
1997	2,343	2,308	2,086	2,318	2,196	2,291	2,232	2,296	2,312	2,231	2,336	2,315	-
1998	2,426	2,383	2,112	2,317	2,233	2,347	2,318	2,386	2,365	2,260	2,346	2,271	-
1999	2,322	2,356	2,099	2,334	2,224	2,281	2,249	2,336	2,352	2,259	2,274	2,231	-
2000	2,310	2,306	2,122	2,349	2,267	2,313	2,229	2,329	2,295	2,102	2,188	2,200	-
2001	2,254	2,222	2,064	2,339	2,247	2,304	2,181	2,295	2,288	2,182	2,270	2,215	-
2002	2,305	2,256	2,052	2,324	2,233	2,254	2,202	2,330	2,214	2,024	2,125	2,191	-
2003	2,262	2,196	1,976	2,160	2,100	2,177	2,243	2,396	2,378	2,195	2,258	2,251	-
Egg Production (Million Eggs)													
1994	112	115	104	113	107	111	111	114	118	121	124	121	1,371
1995	125	124	112	124	121	127	123	124	121	118	120	116	1,455
1996	119	118	110	122	116	119	119	124	121	113	117	114	1,412
1997	119	115	102	115	110	117	115	117	118	116	119	116	1,379
1998	121	119	106	118	114	118	115	119	119	114	117	113	1,394
1999	116	116	103	112	105	108	105	110	111	107	109	105	1,312
2000	109	109	100	112	109	114	110	114	110	100	107	108	1,306
2001	112	111	102	118	113	114	107	111	114	109	115	113	1,339
2002	117	117	105	118	115	117	116	122	115	105	109	113	1,369
2003	115	109	98	107	104	107	109	116	115	107	110	110	1,307

1/ Annual estimates cover the period Dec. 1, previous year thru Nov. 30.

2/ Months may not add to State total due to rounding.

- Not applicable.